

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS, KIDDER
COUNTY, STEELE, NORTH DAKOTA
July 10, 2026
9:00am**

The Board of County Commissioners met on Friday, July 10, 2026 in the Commissioners room at the Kidder County Courthouse in Steele, ND. Commissioners Darrell Guthmiller, Tim C. Dronen, Nicholas Friez and Auditor Jean Schoenhard present. Also Present: Richard Paolinelli Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press, Jason Steidl

Chairman Guthmiller called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 9:00am Public Comment: No Public Comment at this time.

Minutes of June 5, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Guthmiller moved to accept the minutes. Dronen seconded. Motion passed with 3-0 vote.

The agenda was reviewed. Friez moved to adopt the agenda with additions seconded by Dronen. Vote 3-0 motion passed.

The States Attorney position was discussed.

Treasurer Vickie Murray joined the meeting regarding the County Financial Reports. Discussion was held on uncollected taxes, FEMA & Flex Fund dollars. Dronen made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Friez, discussion none, call for a vote, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carries. Murray left the meeting.

Monthly State Aid Distribution was discussed. Friez made a motion to transfer \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Building Improvement Fund and transfer \$20,000.00 from the General Fund to the Kidder Road fund, seconded by Dronen, discussion was held on these funds, call for vote, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

Oliver Bromke Wells County States Attorney joined the meeting. Bromke introduced himself and is interested in the States Attorney position. Bromke does work for Wells and McHenry County and is looking to expand his practice. Discussion was held on budget, cases, possible grant for funding the position and rural states attorney positions. Bromke left the meeting.

South Country Human Services Zone 2027 Budget was reviewed and discussed.

DEM Loren Land joined the meet-

ing.

Friez gave a report on the Kidder County Council on Aging. Discussion was held on NDDOT transit meeting, fund raisers, audit, and being in compliance with Burleigh County Age Well.

Jon Martin Wold Engineering came to the meeting. Martin brought six township flex fund contracts to sign for preliminary engineering. Discussion was held on the projects and reimbursement. County Flex Funding was also discussed. Martin left the meeting.

Lang discussed the tornado shelters and the BRIC grant. Discussion was also held on FEMA mitigation funds. Lang left the meeting.

Sheriff Barry Vannatta came to the meeting. Discussion was held on mileage. He reported he had worked on replacing the ceiling tiles from a leak in the roof at the deputies housing. Discussion was also held on section lines. Vannatta left the meeting.

Opioid settlement funds were discussed. Dronen made the motion to transfer the Opioid Settlement Funds to the Kidder County District Health Unit per House Bill 1447, seconded by Friez, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

Tappen Community Heritage Fund raffle application was reviewed and discussed. Guthmiller made a motion to approve the Tappen Community Heritage Fund Raffle, seconded by Dronen, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

Roadhouse Bar & Grill temporary liquor license was reviewed and discussed. Friez made a motion to approve the temporary liquor license for the Roadhouse Bar & Grill, seconded by Dronen, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

Closing a portion of a section line was discussed. The Board wants States Attorney's opinion.

ND County Commissioners Association Committee sheet were discussed.

NDACo 2027 Budget Memorandum was reviewed.

July bills were reviewed.
Courthouse Payroll:
Commissioners, Courthouse, Weed Board
\$40,655.65

Less WH 3,285.68, SS 3,195.34,

State Tax WH 127.75,
Insurance 536.69, Deferred Compensation 2,075.00, FSA 100.00
\$31,335.19
Commissioner Approved Payroll:
General Fund, Hwy Tax Fund, Co. Agent, VSO, Co. Library, Zoning:
\$59,047.00
Less WH 3,967.57, SS 4,612.43,
ND St. Tax 52.91,
Insurance 491.47, Deferred Compensation 1,650.00,
\$48,272.62

Choice Financial.....	14,694.83
City of Steele	93.29
Burleigh-Morton Det. Center...1,035.00	
Marlin's Convenience Center .1,573.29	
NDSA's Assoc	400.00
WEX Health, Inc.	140.00
City of Steele	628.29
Farmers Union Oil-Pettibone ..4,412.28	
KEM.....	277.53
Marlin's Convenience Center .1,384.91	
Northern Plains Elec.....	214.89
Tappen Oil	8,425.90
Susanna Ongstad.....	75.00
Cenex Fleet Fueling	321.36
Elan Financial	2,012.89
Verizon.....	429.66
WEX Bank	320.60
USPS.....	251.40
AARC.....	225.00
Advanced Bus. Methods.....	170.07
Barbara Steinke.....	380.00
BEK	931.92
Bowerman Ins.....	398.00
Chance Schaffner.....	1,800.00
Cole Papers, Inc.	385.61
Countryside Designs & Signs.1,088.50	
Farmers & Merchants	4,886.04
ITD-Info Tech Dept	907.15
ITD-Info Tech Dept	253.00
Lang's Lawn Care	90.00
Menards.....	126.66
NDACO.....	2,681.15
NDAAO	50.00
Rohrich Tree Service	5,750.00
Stein's Inc.	242.80
Jacob DeBoer.....	315.00
Mary Pat Dewald	298.30
Arlene Flanders	380.10
Julie Gengler	292.50
Dianne Kinnischtzke	354.00
Donna Morrison	357.40
Beth Lauters	273.60
Brett Stroh	50.63
Jean Titlbach	247.50
Pat Zimmerman	407.55
Cindy Trautmann	334.50
MDU	1,289.80
Tappen Farm Supply	774.25
Jon Harter Construction.....	3,264.48
Stutsman County Corrections....	417.00
Annie Craven.....	178.36

BEK	164.03
City of Steele	93.29
Ingram Library Services.....	1,666.67
MDU	153.76
Schumacher Brite-Rite	603.50
Modern Marketing.....	295.00
Abby Keily.....	25.15
NDSU	10.00
Monica Fitterer.....	170.72
F/S Manufacturing	168.87
Tuttle Farmers Elevator	135.55
Woodworth Farmers Grain Co.....	12,342.30
Steele Fire Dept.....	600.00
Kidder Co Public Health	138.70
Arena Welding	338.65
Butler Machinery	2,408.55
Farmers Union Oil-Pettibone ..	2,220.53
Hoffer Landscaping	785.89
KEM.....	124.65
Farmers Union Oil-Pettibone	561.08
Newman Signs	421.26
RDO.....	1,969.36
South Central Reg Water Dist.	46.46
Triple M Services.....	30,434.00

Friez made the motion to approve the July bills, seconded by Dronen. Discussion was held on bills, Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

Monthly reports were reviewed and signed: County Recorder: \$6,996.00

June 2026, Sheriff: no report submitted.

Recess for lunch 12:00pm
Resume from lunch 1:00pm all Commissioners and Auditor present
Discussion was held on funding for storm shelters and the increased costs.

Discussion was held on a 35th St SE between sections 25 & 36 in Williams township. Stutsman County is

improving the section line. The Board is not in favor of using county dollars to improve the section line on the Kidder County side.

Road maintenance: one of the Robinsons Blades are down, discussion held. Discussion was also held on graveling and a road supervisor position.

Phil Porter joined the meeting. Discussion was held on 39th ST SE east of Steele and the condition of the road and ruts in the road. Discussion was held on adding a road superintendent position to the county, pulling shoulders, blade operators, answering to one-person, blading intersections and blade training. Porter left the meeting.

Discussion continued on the road

supervisor position. Friez made a motion to hire a road supervisor internally for the road department, seconded by Guthmiller, discussion was held on one person reporting and being accountable to the commissioners for jobs done and not done, position needed, applications for the position, who the person would be reporting to, application letter deadline, position start date and offering this as an internal position, call for roll call vote: Guthmiller, aye, Dronen, aye, Friez, aye, motion carried. Commission prepared a primary duty list and cover letter for the road department.

With no further business before the board Guthmiller adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm.

Read and approved this 14th day of August 2025.

/s/ Darrell Guthmiller,
Chairman Board of County
Commissioners
/s/ Jean Schoenhard,
County Auditor